

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment-A the claims in the application are claims 1-18, of which claims 1 and 12 are independent.

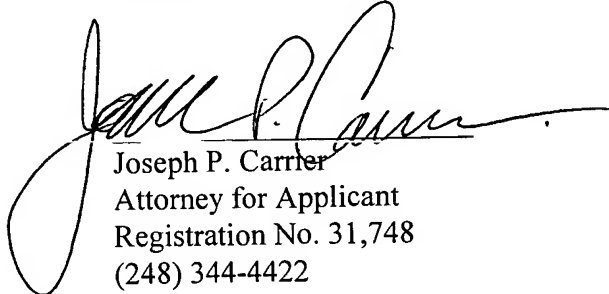
The specification, claims and abstract have been amended to overcome minor informalities therein, and to be more consistent throughout. Also, new claims 7-18 are added which further define aspects of the invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

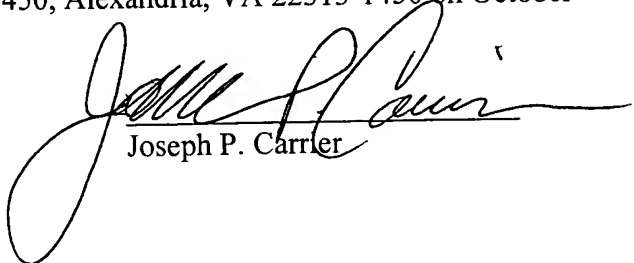
Respectfully submitted,

Customer No. 21828  
Carrier, Blackman & Associates, P.C.  
24101 Novi Road, Suite 100  
Novi, Michigan 48375  
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Joseph P. Carrier  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 31,748  
(248) 344-4422

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate No. ET986050258US in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 6, 2003.

  
Joseph P. Carrier